

TRIBUTE TO THE VERY REVEREND
FATHER JOVAN TODOROVICH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I congratulate the Very Reverend Father Jovan Todorovich upon his retirement as parish priest at Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville, Indiana. I can truly say throughout his more than 36 years of service at Saint Sava, Father Todorovich has been one of the most dedicated, distinguished, and committed citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District. Northwest Indiana and Saint Sava have certainly been rewarded by the true service and uncompromising loyalty he has displayed to the parish and the entire community.

Father Todorovich was born in Vratara, Serbia on July 5, 1940. From a very young age, he was inspired by his faith and realized that a life of service in the priesthood was his calling. In pursuit of his dream, Father Todorovich eventually went on to complete his courses, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Theological Studies at Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Prizren. Following the completion of his studies, Father Todorovich emigrated to the United States of America in 1964. In 1965, due to his perseverance and dedication, Father Todorovich's efforts came to fruition with his ordination into the priesthood.

Prior to joining the congregation at Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, while serving as parish priest for Saint George Church, Father Todorovich served as the director of the Saint Sava Mission Summer Camp program in California. Shortly thereafter, in 1970, he arrived at Saint Sava Church, which was located in Gary, Indiana at the time. Early on during his tenure as parish priest at Saint Sava, Father Todorovich's abilities as a teacher and community leader began to emerge. It was through his efforts at this time that many new members joined the congregation, a new donation campaign was initiated, new church bylaws were introduced, and the need for social gatherings and activities for youth was realized.

When a fire destroyed the church in Gary, Father Todorovich led the parishioners of Saint Sava to a new chapel in Hobart, Indiana, where services were held until the construction of the current church, located in Merrillville, Indiana, was completed. Subsequently, the new church was consecrated in May 1991. Once again, with Father Todorovich's leadership and committed efforts, as well as the vast efforts of many parishioners, the people of Saint Sava were once again able to come together with their spiritual leader and each other to worship.

The new church's consecration, however, was not the only momentous occasion at this time, as Father Todorovich was awarded the highest honor, the Pectoral Cross with the title of Protojerej Stavrofor. To further illustrate the high esteem in which Father Todorovich is held by his parish and his community, in April 1993, he was appointed to the distinguished position of Deputy to the Metropolitan.

Another of the many ways Father Todorovich has touched the lives of so many

people is through his writing. Father Todorovich is quite the accomplished writer, having produced several literary works, including: Patron Saint-Krsna Slava, Our Slava: A Manual on Confession and Communion, and A Visitor's Guide to Saint Sava Church. He has also penned various articles for the Diocesan Observer, as well as for Saint Sava's church bulletin.

Although his pastoral duties and many additional responsibilities have required a vast amount of his time, what is most impressive is the fact that Father Todorovich has never let his busy schedule keep him from his greatest love, his family. Father Todorovich and his wife, Protinica Mirijana, are the proud parents of three daughters, and they have also been blessed with one grandchild.

Madam Speaker, America is a better place because of the tireless and unselfish service of its citizens. Very Reverend Father Jovan Todorovich is a man who has dedicated his entire life to serving others, and he has been the truest example of morality and wisdom. In so doing, he has strengthened his community and the whole of our society. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Very Reverend Father Jovan Todorovich for his lifetime of enduring service and the unforgettable effect he has had on the people of Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church and Northwest Indiana. I wish Father Todorovich and his family well upon his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTY R.
PINKSTON

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Marty R. Pinkston, a longtime and dear friend of my family and one of our community's unsung heroines.

On Friday, December 15, 2006, her peers, friends and supporters will honor her at a farewell dinner as she retires from her position as Director of Governmental and Public Affairs at Florida Memorial University.

A preeminent educator, Dr. Pinkston is affectionately known as "Marty" to her countless admirers and is truly one of the most indomitable community activists of South Florida. Having dedicated a major portion of her life to making the public educational system work on behalf of Florida's minority and poor students, she has been relentless in developing innovative educational programs that succinctly responded to the needs of our community's underserved college student population. Responsible for developing strategies to secure additional resources for the university from local, state and federal sources, Dr. Pinkston was unrelenting in her dedication to providing quality education for all those willing to walk the extra mile in pursuing their college degree.

Having received her bachelor's degree from Florida A&M University, she went on to obtain her MA in Business Education from New York Institute of Technology and her Doctorate in Education from Nova Southeastern University. She complimented her educational achievements with her chairmanship of the Metro-

Miami Action Plan Trust and service on the United Way of Miami-Dade County and the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce, as well as on the Metro-Dade County Safe Neighborhoods Parks Oversight Committee.

Dr. Pinkston epitomizes an admirable spirit of compassion and her concern for the less fortunate in our society will forever be lauded. But she is more than that. Dr. Marty Pinkston is remarkable not just for her energy, achievements and leadership, but because of the kind of person that she is. People are naturally attracted to her. The day just goes better if you get the chance to spend some time with Marty Pinkston.

As one of those hardy spirits who conscientiously chose to reach out to the less fortunate, Dr. Pinkston thoroughly understood how leadership could truly change people's lives. She wisely exercised her leadership and political skills, alongside the mandate of her conviction and the wisdom of her knowledge. The crucial role she played all these years in developing the winning strategy for many a successful candidate for elective office evokes a genuine insight borne out of experience and expertise. She would often say that the accolades are not that important at all. Instead, she would note that what is important is that our community receives the recognition of its strength and promise amidst the tremendous challenges it has had to undertake all through the years.

It is an honor to have the the privilege of knowing this gentle and caring leader. I salute Dr. Marty R. Pinkston, a very dear friend, on behalf of a grateful community that she truly loves and cares for. Now, in retirement, she embarks upon new challenges in life and I am certain her legacy of greatness will only grow and develop as she enters this new phase of life. I wish her every happiness and success.

SAN GABRIEL BASIN
RESTORATION FUND

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will continue to provide safe drinking water to Southern California. In 2000, Congress created the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund after the discovery of perchlorate and other harmful contaminants in the basin's groundwater. The fund initially authorized \$85 million in federal funding to assist the state and local government agencies as well as the private companies found responsible for the contamination to effectively implement a comprehensive clean up plan that would protect the safety of our region's drinking water supply. After evaluation, it is evident that an increase in this authorization is necessary. Therefore, I am introducing legislation to amend the original authorization by increasing the total amount by \$50 million.

The San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA) has done a tremendous job in administering the clean up program. In 1999, the WQA projected the cost of cleaning up the San Gabriel Basin at a total of \$320 million based on the level of contamination of the five original Operable Units of Baldwin Park, El